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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,239	11/19/2003	Kirk Herbert Raney	TH1843 03 (US)	6923
23632	7590	01/04/2007	EXAMINER	
SHELL OIL COMPANY			STINSON, FRANKIE L	
P O BOX 2463			ART UNIT	
HOUSTON, TX 772522463			PAPER NUMBER	
			1746	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/04/2007	PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,239

Applicant(s)

RANEY

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2006.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 52-73 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 52-73 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 53-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Hein (U. S. Pat. No. 5,241,843) or Smith (U. S. Pat. No. 2,588,774) in view of Wientjens (U. S. Pat. No. 6,393,643).

Re claims 53 and 72, Hein and Smith are each is cited disclosing a method of processing laundry, which comprises the steps of:

- (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash vessel (22 in Hein and 64 in Smith) to produce a first clean load of laundry and a first wash effluent (34 in Hein and 22 in Smith);
- (b) passing the first wash effluent through at least one wash filter (16 in Smith only), producing a first wash permeate (22 in Smith only) and a first wash retentate and allowing the first wash permeate to be returned to the at least one wash vessel to establish a wash loop; and
- (c) rinsing the first clean load of laundry to produce a first rinsed load of laundry and a first rinse effluent (54 in Hein and 6 in Smith), to be returned to the at least wash vessel that differs from the claims only in the recitation of the independent wash and rinse loops and the filter (with respect to Hein only). The patent to Wientjens is cited disclosing independent rinse and wash loops and the associated filtering arrangement (see fig. 2 and claims 8-10). It therefore would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in art to modify the non-independent wash and rinse loops in either Hein or Smith, to be independent as taught by Wientjens, for the purpose of enhancing the removal of contaminants from the water and since this is considered to be mere rearrangement of parts (see MPEP 2144.06 SUBSTITUTING EQUIVALENTS KNOWN FOR THE SAME PURPOSE). It is also old and well known to recycle wash and rinse waters for the purpose of reusing the same, thereby rendering a savings in the cost of water and detergents. It is also known to replace duplicate flow lines by a single line and vice-versa. Re claims 54, 56, 57 and 58, the washing of a second load and to generate a second wash and rinse effluent is deemed to be inherent as well as washing additional loads of laundry with respect to claims 64, 65, 68 and 69. Re claims 55, Hein, Smith and Wientjens disclose the first rinse effluent. Re claims 62, 63, 71 and 73, Smith discloses a portion of the rinse water being transferred to the wash effluent (col. 5, line 52 thru col. 6, line 45). Re claims 66, 67 and 70, Hein, Smith, and Wientjens disclose the steady state. Re claims 59-61, note the percentages in Wientjens (col. 3, line 51 and claim 6)

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls

  
FRANKIE L. STINSON  
Primary Examiner  
GROUP ART UNIT 1746